all works written and drawn by AB

WHITE RAIN

AB第三作品集 Yoshitoshi ABe

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WHITE RAIN

The dripping sound again. When I open my eyes slightly, I realize by something—some lie before me.

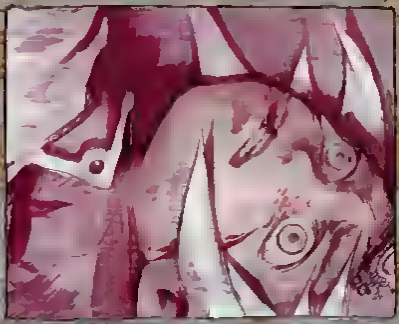
—A [illegible]

It whispers of my death. A raw fear. The writing suddenly [illegible] and [illegible]

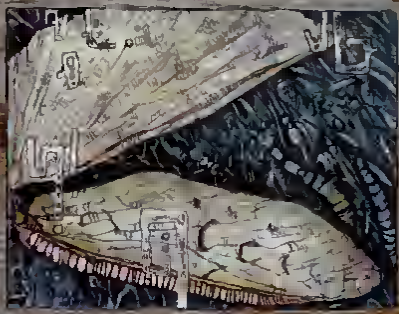
A cold, roaring darkness. A sound of something—A pang. With every breath, I lose myself. Some unspeakable [illegible] all at once. As if it [illegible] us a way

What I have repeated. What I have been killing. And now, become the one to embrace the song of death.

The whining pitch expands inside my head and crushes all of my confused memories. Pain, the final reality.



My world is consumed in crimson. Pain becomes the only reality left to me.



白雨
Sira Same

A voice, like a sneer

Demands warm blood

It rings within my head, a voice of twilight

A metallic noise

Humm of the bugs that scavenge the dead

High and low

Like a slash

Maybe its the sound of water streaming beneath my feet

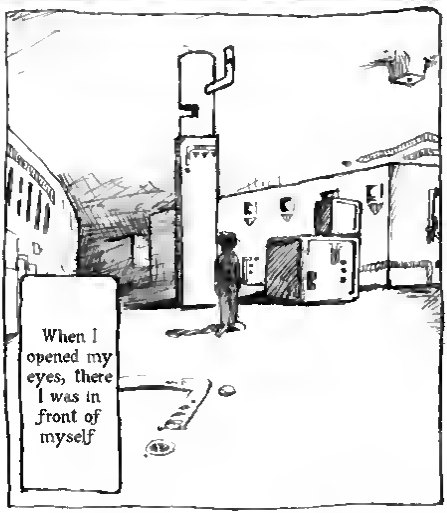
on the night of the full moon

sitting above the bridge

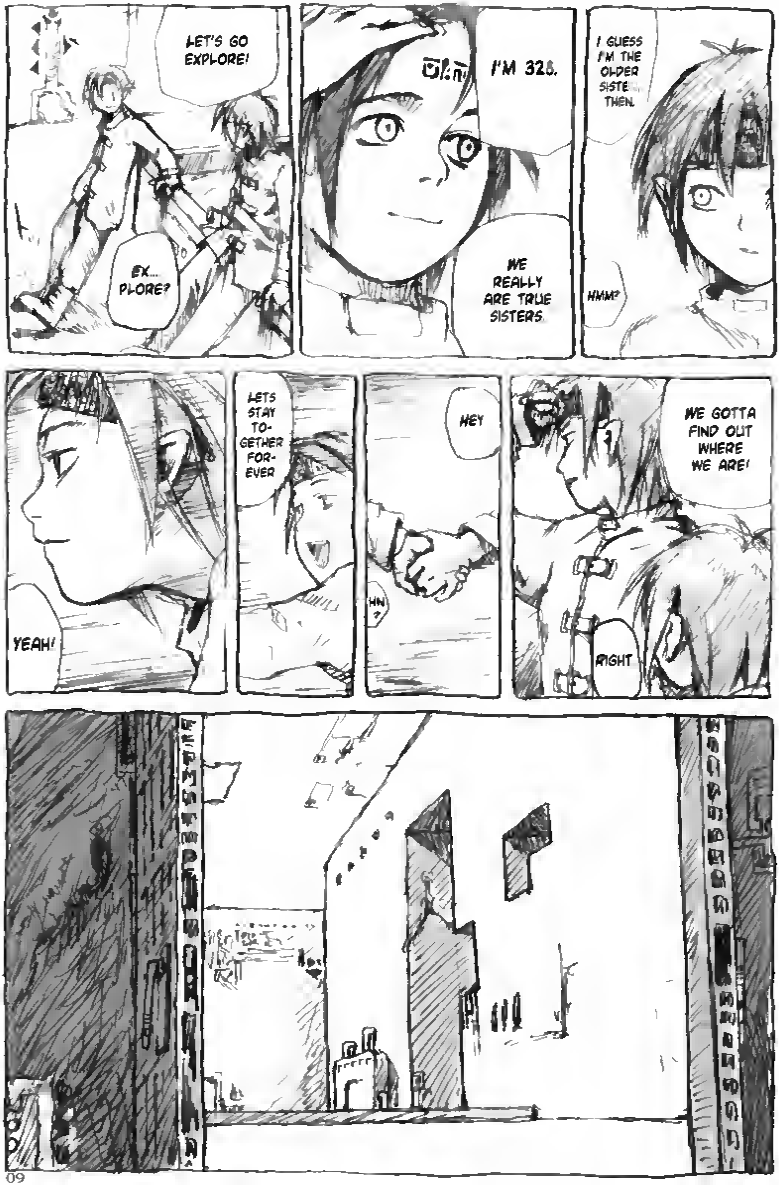
Zaaa— Zaaa- Zaaa-

Is this the sound of the rain?

Or the sound of the wind that stirs the grass?



NOW IT'S GOING "GRRR"
IT'S GETTING LOUDER..
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
Wrrrrn Wrrrn
YOU CAN HEAR THEM TOO?
I'M GLAD I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE
WE LOOK LIKE TWINS
THEY'RE CALLING TO EACH OTHER.
WHEN WE GET FARTHER IT CHIRPS
YEAH!
329
WHERE ARE YOUR MOM AND DAD?
I DON'T KNOW.. I DON'T REMEMBER.
...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

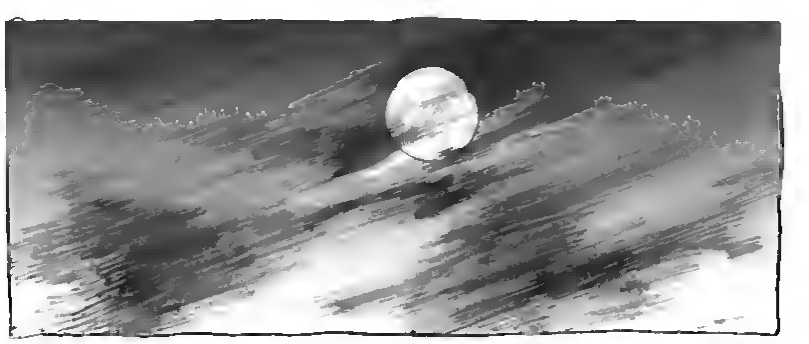

LET'S GO EXPLORE!
EX... PLORE?
I'M 328.
WE REALLY ARE TRUE SISTERS.
I GUESS I'M THE OLDER SISTE... THEN.
HMM?
YEAH!
LETS STAY TO-GETHER FOR-EVER
HEY
HN ?
WE GOTTA FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE!
RIGHT

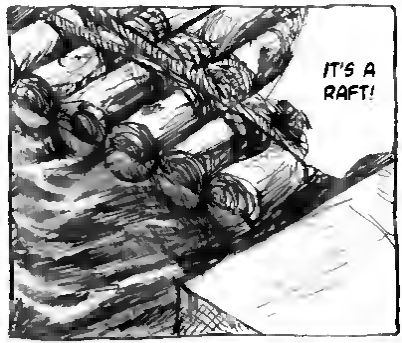
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
A PATH?
IT'S HOT. I'M GETTING THIRSTY
SHOULD WE HEAD BACK? THE WATER IN THE PATH THERE MIGHT BE CLEAN ENOUGH TO DRINK.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
UM NO
THAT'S ALL RIGHT LET'S GO TOGETHER THEN. IT'S REALLY CLOSE

THIS ONE'S COLD WATER AND THIS ONE'S WARM WATER
TURN THIS KNOB
RIGHT OVER HERE
OH!
....
HEHE
WHY... DON'T I REMEMBER ANYTHING IMPORTANT?
MAYBE I WAS FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD
BUT WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM BEFORE YOU WOKE UP?
NOPE

IT'S A KITCHEN!
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO! WE'LL STARVE.
NOTHING IN HERE
WHAT A HUGE CHAIR
THIS IS FAKE THOUGH
I'M HUNGRY...
DON'T WORRY... IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT
YE.. YEAH

LET'S GO! THERE HAS GOT TO BE A WAY OUT OF HERE
IT'S OK.. I'M THE OLDER SISTER REMEMBER?
pat
pat
"SNIFF" SORRY
I'M SUCH A CRY BABY
I SEE....
click
BUT THEY WERE ALL TOO BIG FOR US
THERE WERE MANY CHAIRS IN THE KITCHEN AND NOZZLES IN THE SHOWER ROOM.
IT SMELLS LIKE THE MOON
AHY-THING WRONG ?
I WONDER WHOSE HOUSE THIS IS
IT'S HOT OURS?




IT'S A RAFT!

...AND IT'S REALLY FOGGY.
IT'S COLD?

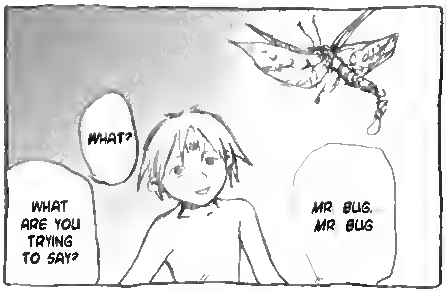
CAN YOU RIDE IT?
OW... YEAH... BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'LL FIT BOTH OF US

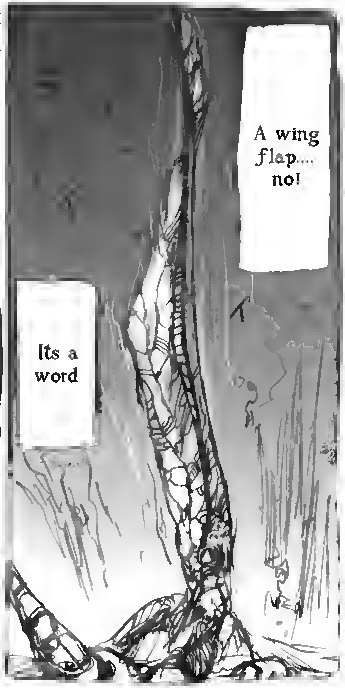
!

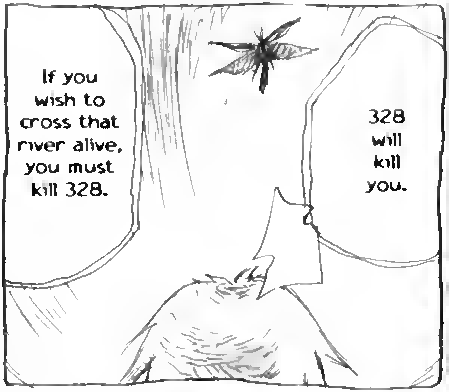
!
IF WE COULD GET AN OAR...
EITHER THAT OR ONE OF US HAS GOTTA SWIM BESIDE THE RAFT.
THAT WOULDN'T WORK
WE'D FREEZE TO DEATH BEFORE WE GOT TO THE OTHER SIDE
DON'T YOU KNOW?
THEY GOT FINS... LIKE THIS... AND THEY SWIM IN THE WATER.
FISHIES?
HMM...
I GUESS THERE WON'T BE ANY FISHIES IF IT'S THAT COLD?
I SEE...
GUESS YOU'VE TAUGHT ME ONE THIS TIME

BUT.. BUT THIS RAFT IS SOMETHING AN ADULT CAN'T USE
EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSE WAS MADE FOR ADULTS
THIS IS STRANGE
?
.....
!!
!?
OH!
I SENSE SOMEONE'S WILL AT WORK...
SOMETHING SOMETHING REALLY EVIL

THIS SOUND
A DAYFLY... A MOTH. IT'S WING SCALES ARE SHINI
A LIGHTNING BUG NO... IT'S NOT A LIGHTNING BUG
WRRRR
RUN HURRY
NO
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!
WHAT'S WRONG?
SISTER!
AAAUH
UGH

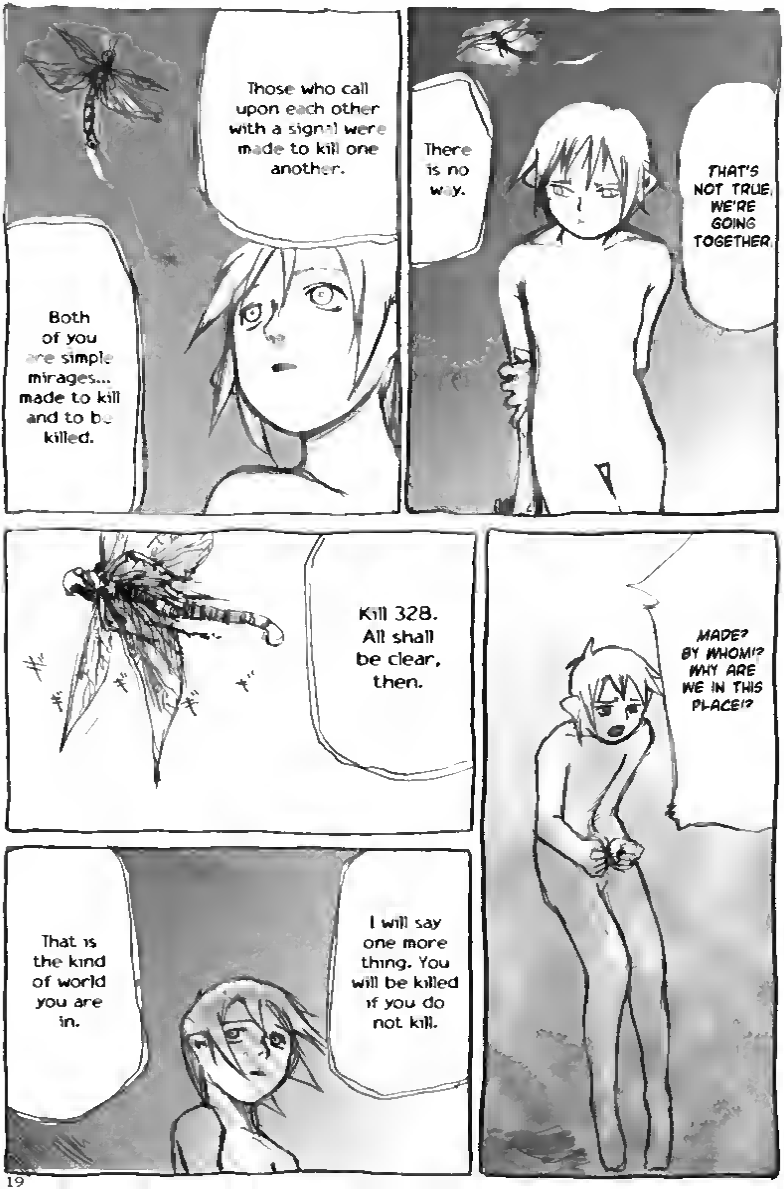

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
MR BUG. MR BUG


A wing flap.... no!
Its a word

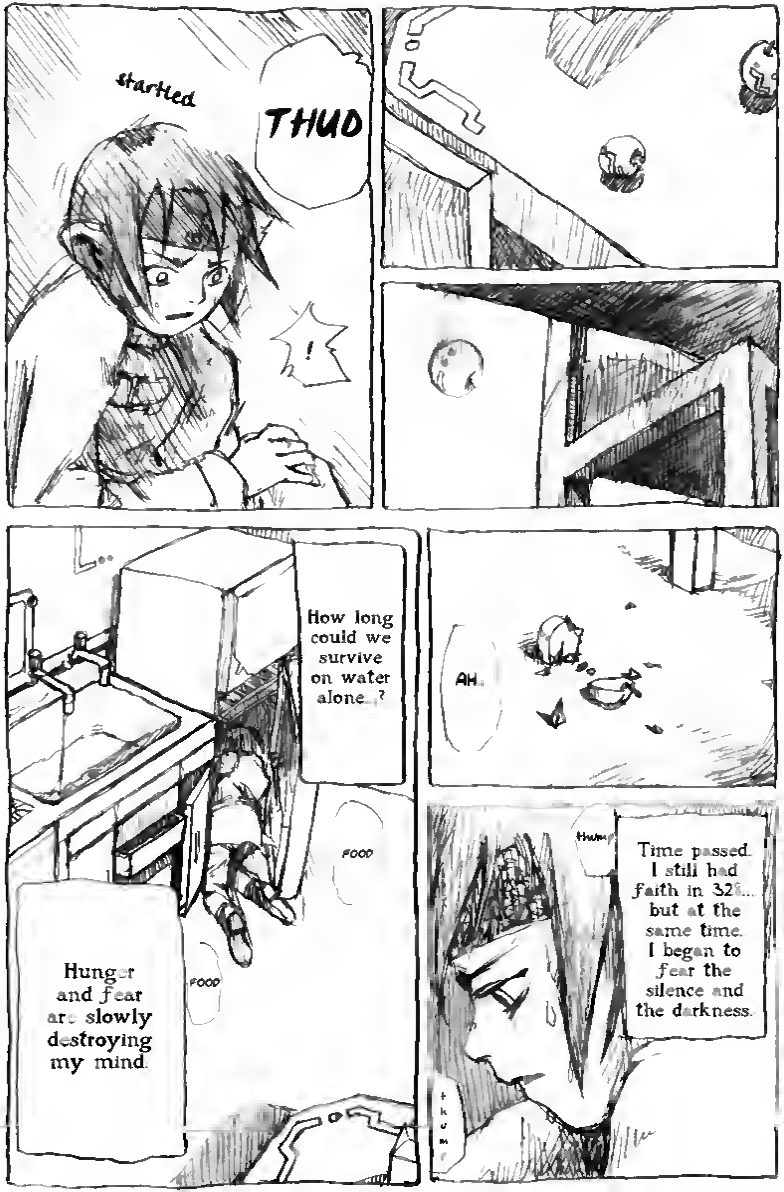

If you wish to cross that river alive, you must kill 328.
328 will kill you.

It is because only one of you is allowed to trespass into the next world across the river.
328 thinks you are coming to kill her.

SISTER WOULD NEVER KILL ME
THA THAT'S A HE


Those who call upon each other with a signal were made to kill one another.
Both of you are simple mirages... made to kill and to be killed.
There is no way.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. WE'RE GOING TOGETHER.
Kill 328. All shall be clear, then.
MADE? BY WHOM!? WHY ARE WE IN THIS PLACE!?
That is the kind of world you are in.
I will say one more thing. You will be killed if you do not kill.

AA..
SISTER!
WHER..
328 disappeared out of my sight.
I didn't know why.

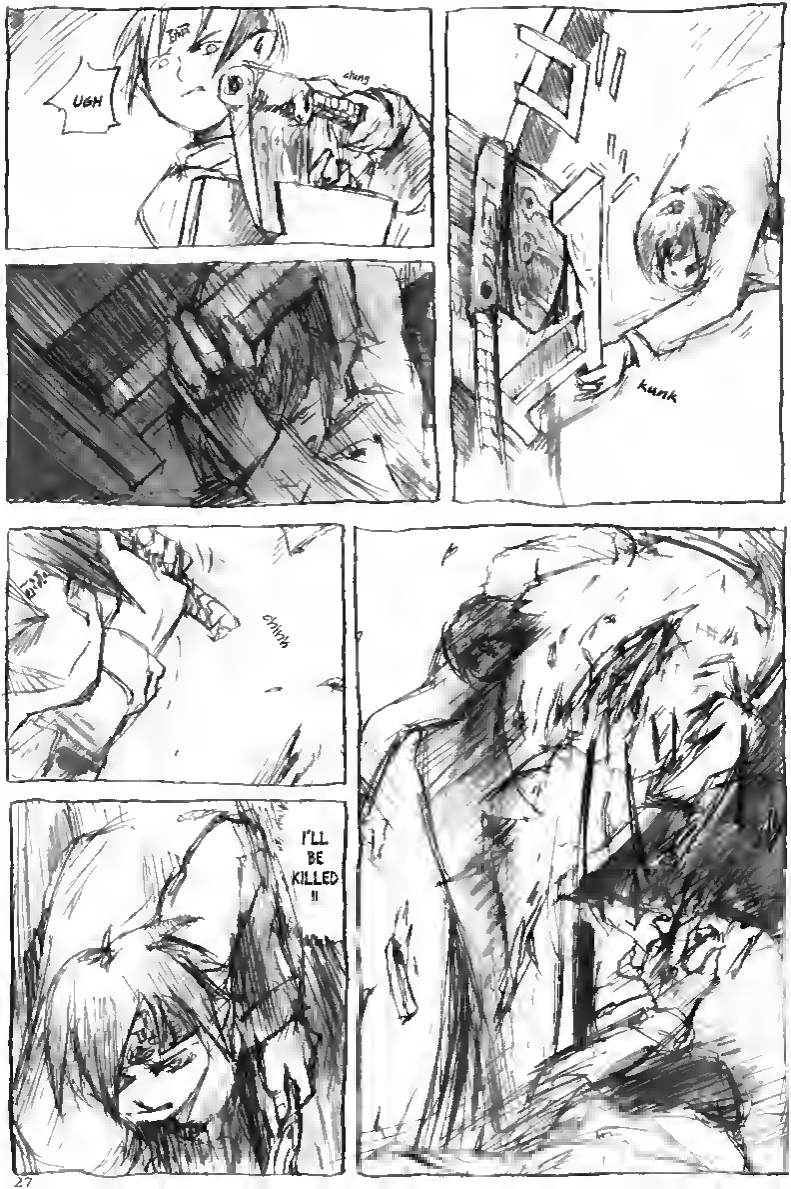

startled
THUD
!
How long could we survive on water alone...?
FOOD
FOOD
Hunger and fear are slowly destroying my mind.
AH.
Hum
Time passed. I still had faith in 32%... but at the same time. I began to fear the silence and the darkness.
thum

EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE WATER IS FAKE
THIS HOUSE...
IT'S AS IF EVERYTHING IS BROKEN JUST LIKE MY INCOMPLETE MEMORIES...
WHAT IS THIS!!
clunk
kunk
THIS SOUND.. I HEARD IT WHEN I WAS WITH MY SISTER... HMM?
Kill... or die from star vation.
SHUT UP!

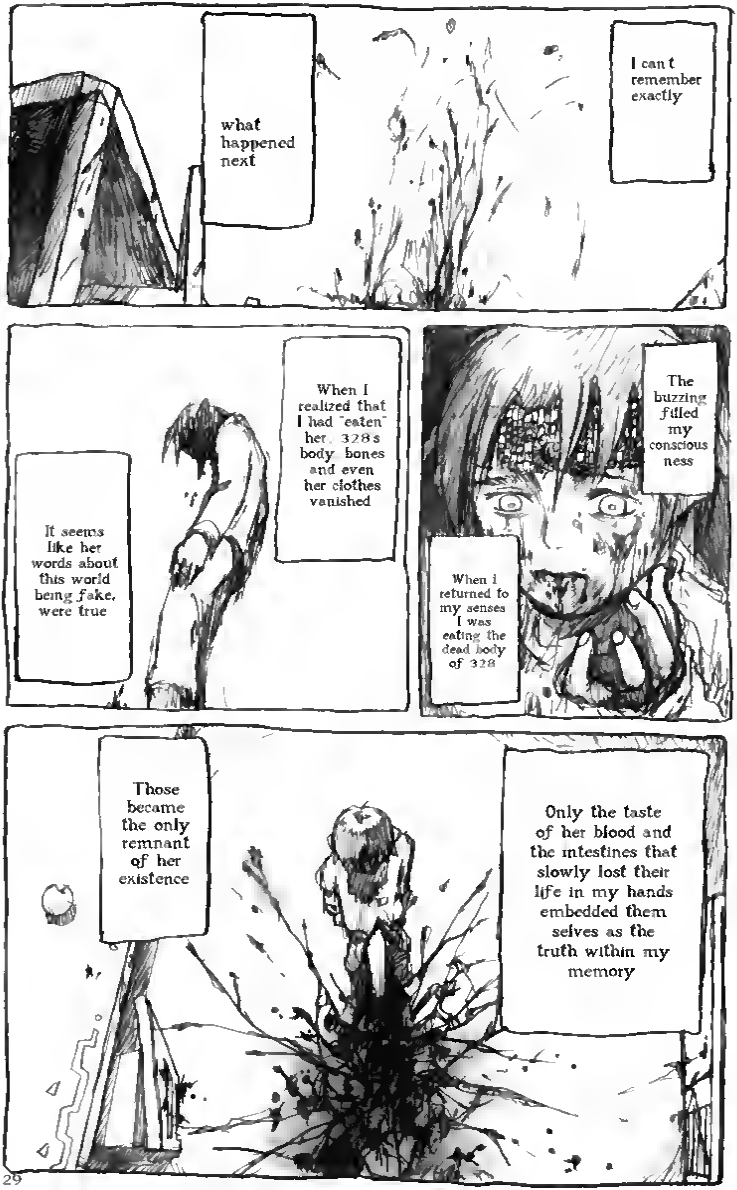
OW!
ITS REAL!?
THERE'S EVEN A FAKE KNIFE....
I'm glad She must be looking for me –
THIS SOUND... SHE MUST BE VERY CLOSE BY
THAT SOUND AGAIN... BUT ITS NOT A WORD
I'M RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU
!!
Those who call upon others.
This is sister's signal!

SISTER?
I'M GLAD, I WAS SO WORRIED...
YOU BETRAYED ME...
SO ARE YOU GOING TO CUT THE RAFT'S BINDINGS WITH THAT KNIFE?
OR...
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
THE BUG SAID THAT ONLY ONE OF US MAY CROSS THE RIVER AND WITNESS THE NEXT WORLD.
WHA?
I BELIEVED IN YOU, BUT YOU BELIEVED IN THAT BUG'S WORDS.

WHAT'S FAKE IS US... OR RATHER THIS ENTIRE WORLD.
INSTRUMENTS OF MURDER ARE ALL REAL IN THIS WORLD
I THOUGHT THIS WAS FAKE LIKE EVERY-THING ELSE!
WA WAIT! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
HOW DO YOU KNOW!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YOU DON'T HEAR THEM, THEN DIE WITHOUT WORRY.
I DON'T WANT TO WATCH YOU SUFFER
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT? THAT CHAOTIC BUZZING OF WINGS.
IT'S OUR OWN VOICES TRAPPED IN THIS FAKE WORLD, KILLING EACH OTHER IN ETERNITY.

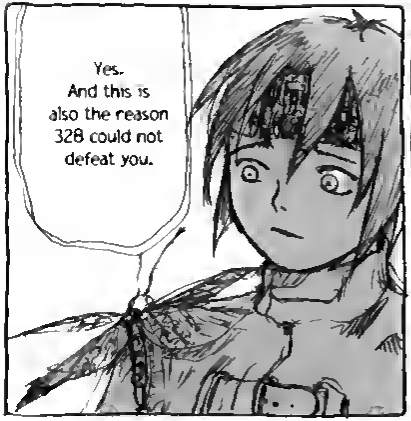

UGH
ENR
clung
kunk
I'LL BE KILLED !!

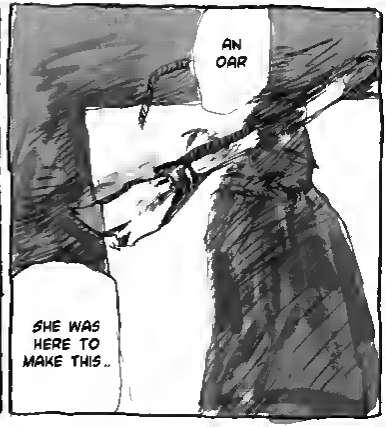
SISTER!


what happened next
I can t remember exactly
It seems like her words about this world being fake, were true
When I realized that I had "eaten" her 328s body bones and even her clothes vanished
When I returned to my senses I was eating the dead body of 328
The buzzing filled my consciousness
Those became the only remnant of her existence
Only the taste of her blood and the intestines that slowly lost their life in my hands embedded themselves as the truth within my memory

328 was able to receive signals from other worlds that you could never hear, although it was only partial.
I thought that...
The bug speaks.
328 would be the one to survive.
You are all adjusted to share the signals, and kill and eat one another to practically "consume" one another's memories and consciousness
All of you inherit a fraction of the original's memories
There are many. You are all mirages with minor distortions.
ARE THERE OTHERS WHO 'CALL UPON EACH OTHER'?
Now that you've killed 328, your memories are changing.
You've never known how to use that knob, but now you feel no hesitation.
CONSUME... THE MEMORIES.
For example

328 had a weapon to kill me with
Since then, my world was falling apart
Changing world. Changing memories
There is nothing that is certain
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT
This is 328's memory!
WHERE IS...
STRANGE I KNOW THIS PATH
After she parted with me, 328 was here.


Yes.
And this is also the reason 328 could not defeat you.


AN OAR
SHE WAS HERE TO MAKE THIS..

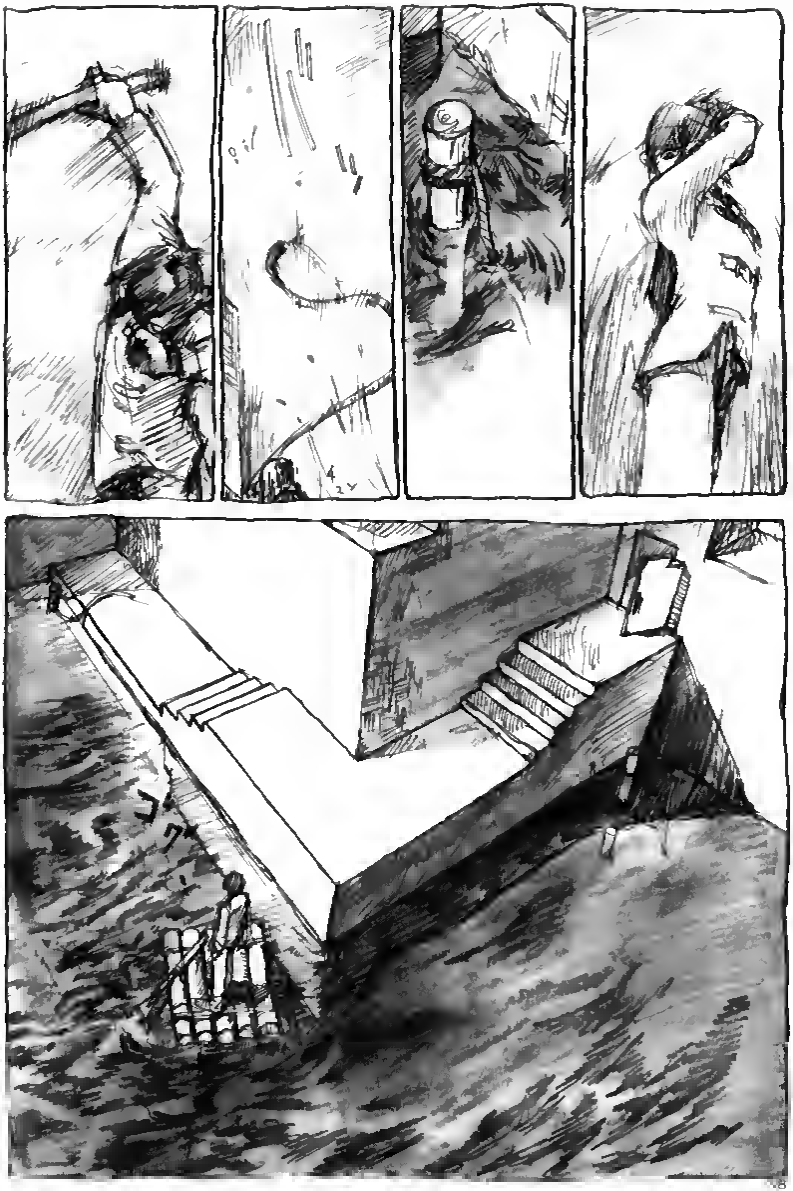
ATTACH A ROPE TO THE RAFT AND ONCE ONE REACHES THE SHORE THE OTHER CAN RETRIEVE THE RAFT...
SHE CHOSE TO CONFRONT THE WORLD RATHER THAN TO BETRAY ME...
You've accepted me, which is, by definition fundamentally evil—
328 however, did not.
She never doubted that there was a way for both of you to cross the river.
328 was already insane upon realizing, through the signals, that this world of kill or be killed would continue past the river.
She did not wish to show you such a world, and was also wishing for death herself.
SISTER...
BUT I... WHY...

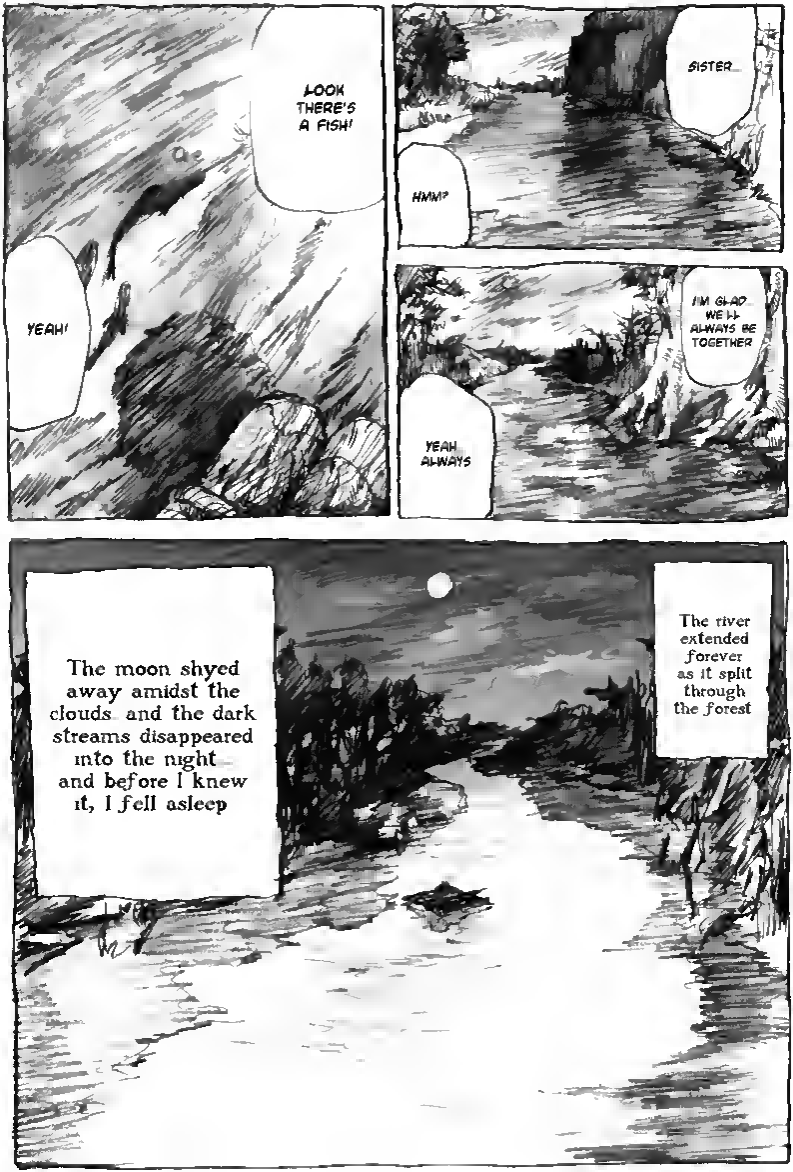
YEAH.
I WANNA DIE
I suppose now you know the reason for 328's madness. What will be it then? Do you wish for death as well?
There is no saving. There is no saving in any of the worlds you can go to.
This world is absolute. There is no escape like 328 thought.
BUT...
I'LL LIVE ON
I AM A MURDERER
I DON'T WANT TO BE FORGIVEN, NOR DO I WANT TO BE SAVED.
NO, THERE IS A WAY OUT.
BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO CROSS THE RIVER TOGETHER.

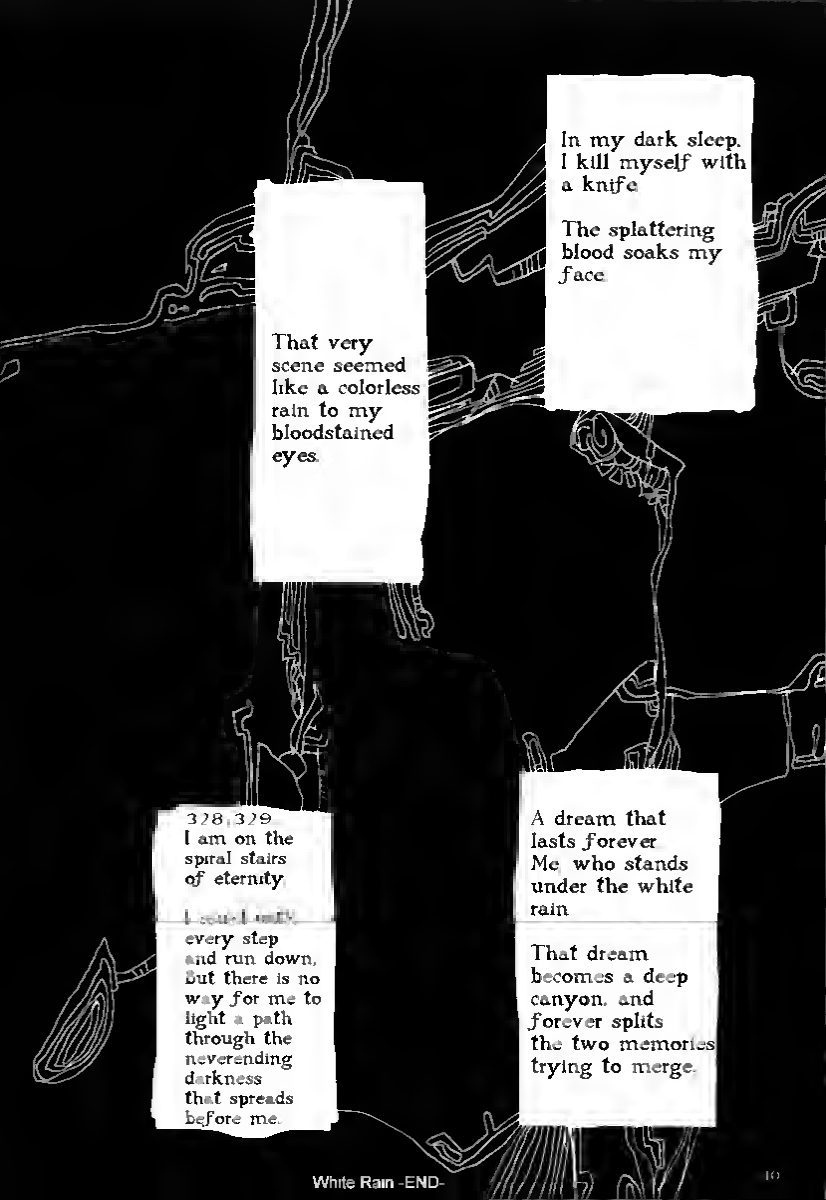
I BELIEVE THAT MINDS ARE CREATED FROM OUR MEMORIES
I BELIEVE
328 completely disappeared after you consumed her
328 within you is a mirage.
Minds are like water. Without a container, it has no form.
I ATE SISTER'S MEMORIES SO NOW SHE LIVES WITHIN ME
Foolish Such nonsense
THE MIRAGE IS NOT OUR MINDS. THIS ENTIRE WORLD IS SOMETHING RECORDED FROM OUR MINDS
THIS RAFT WOULD SINK WITH THE WEIGHT OF 328 IN MY BODY
IF BODIES MEAN ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD
Without a body, there wouldn't be a mind, even if there is a memory

Interesting. I might have to revise my recognitions.
However, the fact that you are a murderer, and a cursed man-eater does not change.
AT LEAST IN THIS WORLD, OUR SOULS AREN'T BOUND TO OUR BODIES.
IF SISTER REALLY DID DISAPPEAR, THEN HALF OF THIS WORLD WOULD DISAPPEAR AS WELL.
AH... UGH...
If you don't want to lose yourself, you will end up killing one another within your memories.
Can you forget? The memories of a most crooked cannibalism... Do you really think that you can wash away the truth- that you have slain your own kin with that very hand- just by using words? Try it if you dare.
NO THAT WON'T HAPPEN
!?
...BECAUSE I'M GOING TO PROTECT HER.

swoosh
328? It is rare for ones such as you two to remain separated for so long.
BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. ANSWER ME! WHO MADE THIS WORLD!?
AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
WE WON'T MERGE IT IS A SMALL FRAGMENT BUT ITS 329'S POWER IT'S VERY STRONG MAINTAINING OUR INDIVIDUALITY
I WILL FOLLOW
MY SISTER WILL DECIDE WHAT WE WILL DO
If you want to know, kill the mirage that has that memory and consume them.
Now what?
You will meet them after crossing many worlds.

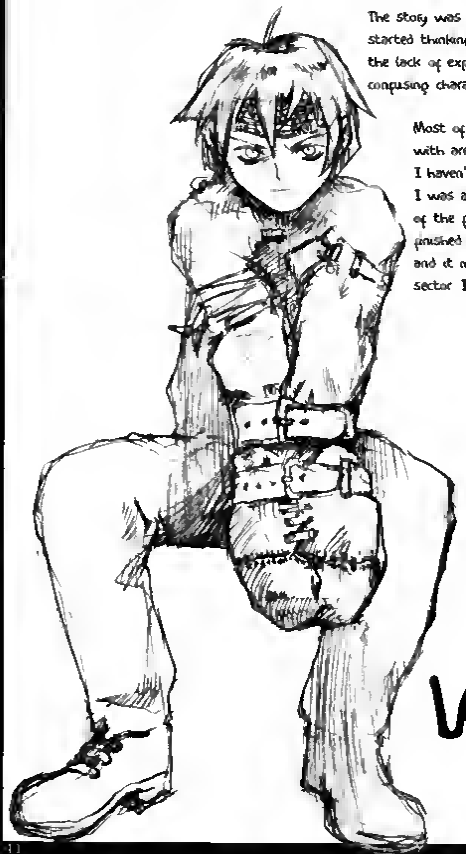



LOOK THERE'S A FISH!
YEAH!
SISTER...
HMM?
I'M GLAD WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER
YEAH, ALWAYS
The moon shyed away amidst the clouds and the dark streams disappeared into the night... and before I knew it, I fell asleep
The river extended forever as it split through the forest


In my dark sleep,
I kill myself with
a knife.
The splattering
blood soaks my
face.
That very
scene seemed
like a colorless
rain to my
bloodstained
eyes.
328,329
I am on the
spiral stairs
of eternity.
every step
and run down,
But there is no
way for me to
light a path
through the
neverending
darkness
that spreads
before me.
A dream that
lasts forever.
Me, who stands
under the white
rain.
That dream
becomes a deep
canyon, and
forever splits
the two memories
trying to merge.

Author's Note

Thank you for purchasing White Rain.
I ended up rushing to finish before the deadline but it was more work than usual, and I had to manage everything within a schedule of 2 weeks. 1 week for coloring, 6 days for the drawing, and 1 day of editing... I was hoping to have a bit more time but I had to finish it 2 days early because of my university's sketching trip, then I wasted 2 days due to my job, and last one day from personal reasons, so I couldn't finish all that I planned, but at least I made it into a form of a booklet. I'm terribly sorry for the lack of quality...but I guess I'll stop now. I'm starting to make excuses. Still, I would say it's the best I could manage with the little time I had.



The story was more like a piece of a longer story I've started thinking about as of recently, and I'm sorry for the lack of explanation. As well as for the rather confusing characters, since both girls look exactly the same.

Most of the serious stories I tend to come up with are rather tedious and slow going, and since I haven't been drawing comics for very long, I was aiming to put movement into the composition of the frames and the character's expressions. This finished piece is my first action piece I have done, and it made me recognize my lack of skills in that sector. I need more practice.

1997 07.31 Yoshitoshi ABe

WHITE RAIN

奥付

『白雨』

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